(c) The MLAT provides for cooperation between the two Governments in providing mutual legal assistance in criminal matters including investigations, enquiries, trials or other proceedings relating to an offence created by the Legislature of the Contracting State.

(d) The new Extradition Treaty and the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Treaty will come into effect after their signature by the two Governments.

Inclusion of India in UNNCRE Programme

2458. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's name has not been included in the participating countries list for the United Nations National Competitive Recruitment Examination Programme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government have taken/proposed to be taken to enable Indian Qualified Youth to attend the United Nations National Competitive Recruitment Examination?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) National Competitive Recruitment Examination (NCRE) are organized by the United Nations (UN) to recruit junior professionals as a matter of priority from countries that are unrepresented and under-represented among the staff of the UN Secretariat. In addition, the exam is also conducted for nationals of those countries that are in danger of becoming under-represented or unrepresented. India is amongst the 21 Member States of the UN that are over-represented in the UN Secretariat and therefore the NCRE is not conducted for India.

Pows in jails of Pakistan and Bangladesh

2459. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of prisoners languishing in jails of Pakistan, Bangladesh and China;

(b) whether it is a fact that nearly fifty-five of army jawans including pilots went missing in 1971 war with Pakistan and they are in various jails, particularly Kote Lakhpat Jail in Pakistan; and

(c) the steps taken so far to release these Prisoners of War from Pakistani Jails?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) As per available information there are 739 Indian prisoners in Pakistani jails, 892 Indian prisoners in Bangladeshi jails and about 40 Indian prisoners in jails in China.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Indians in jails of foreign countries

2460. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a number of Indian citizens are languishing in the jails of various countries;

(b) if so, the number of Indians imprisoned country-wise, at present;

(c) since when they are languishing in jails, and the reasons for their imprisonment with details thereof;

(d) whether Government have negotiated with the concerned Governments in this regard; and

(e) whether Government have objected to discrimination against these Indians in jails and the number of them were got released during year 2006?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) A statement containing details of Indians imprisoned in various countries is enclosed (*See* below).

(c) Information is being collected from our Missions/Posts abroad and will be laid on the table of the House.

(d) The Government of India, through Indian Missions and Posts abroad, makes all possible efforts to get Indian national in foreign jails released quickly and provide necessary assistance which includes